

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL AGENT

BY this time every Labour Agent and Secretary knows of the developments now under way to build up the circulation of the *Daily Herald* and to recreate it in the form of a great national newspaper.

I have no doubt that those responsible for the political organisation of Labour will welcome any step to place our *Daily Herald* within reach of a newspaper-reading public.

Those responsible for the new *Daily Herald* are anxious to enrol a Million Registered Readers before the date of publication, and they have invited the Political Movement, as well as the Industrial Movement, to take part in a campaign to secure that number.

I am writing to ask all my colleagues engaged in political organisation to respond to the appeal made to them, and to organise a door-to-door canvass for signatures.

I could, of course, mention the financial consideration offered to Parties in connection with this matter, but I prefer to invite co-operation on grounds of political advantage, because of the tremendous aid a great newspaper can be to the Party of which we are servants.

No one can tell when the next Election will arrive. Quite likely it will come as a "thief in the night." It has to be remembered that Mr. MacDonald has not Mr. Baldwin's majority to fix the date definitely. When it does come, our Government will stand or fall according to the knowledge of its work conveyed to the electors.

Finally, I ask you to work for the *Daily Herald*, as if it were part and parcel of the duties you are engaged to carry through on behalf of the Party.



MR. G. R. SHEPHERD,
National Agent, *The Labour Party*.

G. R. SHEPHERD.

Looking Backward—and Forward with our Labour Daily

By J. S. MIDDLETON,
Acting Secretary, *The Labour Party*.

Of all the people in the Labour Movement who realise the need that exists for the *Daily Herald* to be put on a basis at all approaching its many competitors, our Party Agents, Organisers, and Secretaries probably stand pre-eminent. None know as well as they the doubts and difficulties sown by the ordinary day-to-day press in the minds of the average man and woman regarding the Labour Party, its aims, its opportunities and its achievements.

Our Movement, both on its industrial and its political side, came into being, developed and reached its present power in the teeth of the opposition, the misrepresentation, or the neglect of the vast number of newspaper owners and editors. We have now attained to such prominence, however, and have so great a number of the people at our back, that the search for circulation demands that more interest, even more friendly attention, should be given to our work.

But we, as day-to-day workers in the Movement, will not be deceived. Twenty-five years' perusal of press cuttings dealing with Labour Party matters has frankly left me somewhat cynical of the power of the great circulations to affect the mass of the people. Yet the central fact that all of us must recognise and keep constantly in mind is that the destinies of all Parties, and, indeed, that of the country itself, is determined in the last analysis of the election returns by that floating, unattached and, in numbers, comparatively small proportion of voters who create the majorities in the constituencies. Our main task, therefore, is to keep pegging away by all the means within our power to reduce the number of voters who have no fixed political principles, by enrolling as many as possible in the ranks of the Party, and so to bring our cause under the notice of the rest that they will realise the seriousness of our purposes and refuse to be blown about by the winds of the scare-mongers when a verdict is being sought at the polls.

The nation to-day is threatened with a campaign conducted by its two chief

press-magnates whereby one of them may be installed in Downing Street with a Government at his command. Lord Rothermere characterises Lord Beaverbrook as "the most acute political brain in this country," and the latter responds by hailing his fellow as "the great master of popular opinion," who "carried the Conservative Party to power in 1924."

That election, as we know to our cost, was won by the biggest hoax that was ever played upon a people, and the same sort of intrigue is not at all beyond the range of these masters of popular opinion now that the question of a working majority for a Labour Government is at stake.

So, then, we can all hail the opportunity of so spreading the sale of the *Daily Herald* that there will be at any rate much less risk of such a hoax again being perpetrated.

In the meantime, too, the defence of our Government and the attack of our Party so long and so gallantly carried on in the *Daily Herald* of the days gone by, can be conducted on greater and more satisfactory lines in the greater space the new *Herald* will allow.

One of the wisest of Socialists said long years ago: "One never knows—one never can tell!" During its existence, our Party has met all the uncertainties and unexpectedness that could very well befall it. None ever dreamt of our having two terms of Minority Government, for example. Few thought the tiny "D.H." of 1911 would survive the strike against Fleet Street that it was called into being to voice. Hard work and faithful service have battled successfully against the heaviest of odds. This new *Daily Herald* venture is only another phase of the same old fight and it calls for the same old qualities from our Party supporters. There is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that they will be forthcoming and that in all the constituencies our friends will see to it that the work of securing new readers will be carried on during the next few months with vigour, enthusiasm and efficiency.



NOW FOR THE BIG PUSH

THE efforts of every Labour Party Organiser will contribute in great measure to the success of the new *Daily Herald*, the first issue of which will be published on March 17th.

The Great National Campaign to secure a million new Registered Readers in advance is now in full swing. Help us to make the new *Daily Herald* a National Newspaper worthy of the Cause it champions.

Organise your district scientifically so that every Labour supporter is roped in and then let us have another big push to win over the neutrals.

ORGANISE FOR VICTORY!

ORGANISE! ORGANISE! ORGANISE!

What the Campaign will do for Labour

By WILLIAM MELLOR, *Editor, "Daily Herald."*

Power to capture new ground, and consolidate it, has for years past been responsible for the growth of the Labour Movement on its industrial and political sides. To-day there are more than four million Trade Unionists in the country and at the last General Election there were more than eight million Labour voters.

Only those who know the inner workings of the Labour Movement appreciate the part played in the building up of this great force by its local secretaries. Throughout the country are thousands of men and women who spend hour after hour of their all too short leisure perfecting the working of their Trades Council, their Trade Union branch, or their Labour Party. "Doubtfuls" have, with tact and logical argument, to be converted into "certainties." Opponents have to be won over. Stalwarts have to be directed along the true path and the work goes on, though often this vast body of men and women spend many an anxious hour, baffled by lack of funds.

To-day, the Labour Movement is making a great new effort in connection with the new *Daily Herald*. The new voice of Labour—the same voice but in a new form—appears on March 17th, and already thousands of "*Daily Herald Helpers*" have been enrolled through the local Labour Movement secretaries. Every Helper is equipped to enlist new readers for the new paper, and the great country-wide drive is already in full swing. In locality after locality, secretaries are personally directing the Helpers in their search for new readers, and are acting as Helpers themselves.

This campaign is of the utmost significance to the Labour Movement from many points of view. It will, for instance, provide us with a shrewd idea of the present state of the Movement's General Election machine; for it is on the line of a General Election canvass that it has been thought best to carry out the *Daily Herald* sales campaign. Again local secretaries, on whose heads the responsibility for the success of the next General Election will largely rest, will find precisely where their local system is strongest, and where it is least efficient. New methods by which over-lapping of can-

vassing may be prevented can be tried out, and supporters of the Labour Movement will gain invaluable practice in the art of persuasion.

Nor should it be forgotten that the canvass for readers will have a most direct repercussion on the General Election battle, come when it may. Many local secretaries will seize this opportunity of canvassing the "neutrals" in their districts as well as the converted. In this way, new Labour voters can be won via the *Daily Herald*.

A man or woman, wavering politically, and reading an Independent, Liberal or Tory newspaper, can, without difficulty, be secured as a reader of the new and enlarged *Daily Herald*, for the new paper will be as good, and in many ways better, than the present big circulation dailies. Once a reader of the *Daily Herald*, the step to the ballot box or into a Trade Union as a convinced Labour supporter is easy.

Nationally, the Labour Movement gains in every way by having such a paper preaching the gospel of the Labour Movement in the most up-to-date manner. All the devices of modern newspaper production will be at the paper's call. It will be equipped so as to fight the battle of Labour in the Press. Above all, the policy of the paper is safeguarded beyond question, and the policy is that of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party.

Financially, there is everything to commend the *Daily Herald* sales campaign and the Helpers' scheme. Its simple motto is "Help the *Herald*, Help the Movement," and conferences representing every shade of opinion within the Movement have approved the suggestions put forward by the Directors of the *Daily Herald*. And the direct result is that sums of money usually spent by newspapers on general publicity are being diverted to the Labour Movement funds.

Let me recapitulate the Helpers' scheme. It provides for a total payment of 7/6 for every six new readers gained for the new *Daily Herald*. Of this total, 4/6 goes to the individual Helper, and the remaining 3/- goes direct to the Labour Movement funds—1/6 to the local organisation to which the Helper belongs, and the other 1/6

(Continued on page 8.)

A CANVASS FOR A MILLION READERS

THE "DAILY HERALD" MOBILIZES THE MOVEMENT.

By THE EDITOR.

Who in the Movement does not know something already about the great mobilization of the Movement organised and now taking place under the combined auspices of the new *Daily Herald*, the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party?

What is more to the point, who that is true to the Movement is yet untouched or unready for the hurricane campaign now being launched to cement in a record circle of readers the millions of those who last May cast their votes for Labour? To those who are not yet mobilized the Prime Minister himself has endorsed the "calling-up" papers in a stirring message in which he says he has unbounded faith that the same machinery which placed the Government in office can give the *Daily Herald* a circulation commensurate with the necessities of a Movement having the responsibilities of holding office.

The great campaign, too, has received the whole-hearted backing of the Labour Party who, through their officers, are now engaged in calling into the campaign every resource and power which the Parties in the constituencies exercised at the General Election.

The object of this article is to still further explain in detail the remarkable scheme placed before the Movement. It is necessary that everybody should first get clear in their minds that the new *Daily Herald* is to be a front rank newspaper in every respect, in size, in news resources at home and abroad, in equipment; in contents, and in the attractions offered to its readers. After March 17th the plaintive plea that it is necessary to buy a second daily paper to complete one's digest of foreign and home affairs will no longer have force, and thousands of present *Herald* readers will actually have to thank the new paper for saving them a penny per day! In short the one daily organ in the country that will support the Government in Office is to be a newspaper of highest tradition and quality and of really world-wide influence.

These things alone might bring the desired circulation. But why wait? Business prudence demands that the huge circulation necessary to maintain

the high standard mentioned should be secured from the start and with a General Election looming in the offing no emphasis should be needed here to point the importance of immediately ensuring that the new *Daily Herald* gets at once the circulation that the paper and the Movement both need.

From one cause and another the eight million voters whom Labour secured at the last General Election have been singularly diffident in supporting their own daily paper. The new paper will assuredly win them to a far far wider support. But so that this desirable end shall be immediate, and that the new readers shall be attracted right away, the new *Daily Herald* offers a direct and personal inducement to each reader; and in the effort necessary to register the million new readers it also offers a direct and personal inducement to every helper who enrolls new readers and a further inducement to the political or industrial organisation which aids and supervises the enrolment.

The new paper is to have a family insurance scheme of exceptional generosity and equal in that respect to any insurance scheme now offered by any other paper. That fact in itself removes one of the causes for the increase of the circulation of other papers at the expense of the present *Daily Herald*. In addition, every new reader who takes the *Herald* for ten weeks (and so gives it a real test) is to receive a valuable present. The present consists of either a really first-class Ensign camera or a writing-set in the form of an attractive fountain pen with solid gold iridium-tipped nib, and a propelling pencil to match, both resting in a handsome presentation case. Could any reader desire more? A front-rank newspaper, a first-class insurance scheme, and a high-class present! Assuredly, there should be a rush for these good things.

This rush is to be made to benefit the Movement and at the same time reward Labour canvassers for their efforts. Ninepence is to be paid to the canvasser for every new reader in two instalments as mentioned below, and sixpence is to be paid to the local organisations organising the canvass,

also in two instalments. Thus one thousand new readers in any town or area means a matter of £50 for the canvasser or canvassers and £25 for the Movement. Surely now our readers' appetites are whetted to read and understand further.

The first purpose of the scheme is the enrolment of helpers. This matter is now extremely urgent, and if in any area the enrolment of helpers is not completed we appeal to local secretaries to at once take emergency steps to secure their mobilisation. A special circular and an immediate meeting are urgently called for.

The enrolled helpers will constitute the backbone of the scheme and every election worker in the country ought to be enrolled. It is the helpers who will perform the great canvassing feat expected of the Movement. The helper will receive threepence for every new reader he obtains, directly the order form is received and verified by the *Daily Herald*, and he will receive a further sixpence in respect of each new reader when the latter has qualified for his present, i.e., after the reader has taken the paper for ten weeks. The helper therefore gets ninepence for every order.

Directly a helper has enrolled complete instructions are sent to him together with a credential card and a book of order forms. The helper should carefully read instructions and peruse the various forms until he has a full understanding of them, when he will find his task comparatively simple, and that every contingency has been provided for.

The marshalling and conduct of the campaign and the general control of the army of helpers is in the hands of the local organisations under a well-thought-out scheme. The machinery will be on a constituency basis and except in very exceptional circumstances a "co-ordinating body" will operate for each constituency. This is, of course, a joint effort by the industrial and political arms of Labour and therefore Trades Union resources and effort enter into the matter as well as Labour Party effort. The consequence is that the central body in any constituency or area must be one which represents both the industrial and political forces in the area.

Similarly in local areas within the constituency the scheme provides for

co-operation between the industrial and political forces. In further explanation of the scheme we cannot now do better than quote from an explanatory leaflet published by the new *Daily Herald* showing exactly how the scheme works:—

In Boroughs the Co-ordinating Body will be the Trades Council and Labour Party or a Joint Committee in cases where the Trades Council and the Labour Party are separate bodies.

In County Divisions the Co-ordinating Body will usually be the Divisional Labour Party.

There will be certain instances where one or more Trades Councils exist in a Division. Usually, they will be operating as the Trades Council and the local Labour Party. If, however, the Trades Council is entirely separate from the local Labour Party, the Co-ordinating Body should see that the two bodies combine in this effort and accept joint responsibility for the success of the scheme in the locality.

In Greater London there will be two Co-ordinating Bodies. On the political side the London Labour Party will act and will deal direct with Divisional Labour Parties. On the Industrial side the London Trades Council will be responsible.

HOW THE MACHINERY WILL WORK.

The primary duty of the Co-ordinating Body is to see that the whole force of the Political organisation on the one hand, and the Trade Union organisation on the other, is brought into operation. Its function is two-fold—speeding-up and co-ordinating.

The Secretary and members of the Committee should make it their duty to keep in the closest personal touch with Secretaries of Local Labour Parties, Women's Sections and Trade Union Branches, to assist in maintaining the maximum of effort, and seeing that this effort is being properly co-ordinated.

The Co-ordinating Body should arrange that the Divisional or local Labour Party (whichever can most easily undertake the work) should mark off on a register of electors the names of registered readers secured. This will not only disclose duplicate registrations but will also enable the Co-ordinating Body to have in its possession what may be regarded as a list of labour supporters at election time. In cases where, say, the wife has regis-

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tered at home and the husband at work, the duplication should be notified to the *Daily Herald*, 68, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, and to the two helpers concerned.

The Local Labour Party (or Ward Committee as the case may be) will secure the enrolment of individual members for the work of door-to-door canvassing. In this connection the Women's Section and League of Youth, may be allocated districts and receive such portion of the 3d. per registered reader as may be determined by the Party. Secretaries will collect completed enrolment forms and despatch them direct to the *Daily Herald* as soon as possible.

Members of affiliated Trade Union Branches may register as helpers through the Labour Party as door-to-door canvassers if they so desire, in which case the Labour Party and not the Trade Union Branch will receive the 3d. per registered reader secured.

As canvassing is taking place in the workshop and also at the home, care should be taken to minimise the possibility of duplication by enquiring if any form has been filled in previously, either by the wife or the husband, as the case may be.

The local organisation will conduct the door-to-door canvass in the same manner as in a General or Municipal Election, and the ground to be covered by every helper will be allocated to him or her.

(Concluded from page 4.)
goes to the "co-ordinating body" in the area,

It is hoped to secure a million new readers for the new paper by means of the present drive. If this be accomplished, one beneficent result will be that a huge sum will be contributed by the new *Daily Herald* to the Labour Movement in return for work done. Many a local Party or Trades Council will become possessed of the reward of endeavour and organisation. And for the Labour adherents who have taken the simple course of enrolling as *Daily Herald* Helpers, and have completed their task of enlisting readers, there will be not only satisfaction for good work well done, but tangible recognition of services openly given.

There are no hidden mysteries in this scheme. The whole thing is clean, clear and straightforward. Successive conferences of Labour delegates up and down the country have approved it and it has been discussed in the full light of day.

The voices of critics have been heard, and the voices that have most noisily made themselves heard are found to have been those of sufferers from "diseases of the Left." Labour expects their abuse and would be surprised were it wanting. But facts overcome and silence abuse, and the basic fact is that the *Daily Herald* remains, and will remain, the only daily newspaper giving voice to the accomplishments and to the ideals of the Labour Movement and of true Socialism.



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The Labour Agent Answers Our Request for Information.



Mr. W. HOWSON.

Labour Agent, Accrington.

There is no "royal road" to success in the running of a bazaar. Work is the "keynote" throughout and, generally speaking, the harvest is in proportion to the seed sown.

We, in Accrington, claim to have run two of the most successful bazaars ever held in the Labour Movement. In 1925 we promoted a bazaar, took £3,100, which yielded a net profit of £1,862. Last November we ran another on similar lines and our takings amounted to £3,182. Our net result is not yet declared, but we anticipate about £1,350 clear. The result is not so good as before, and the reason is obvious to all of us here. Accrington, according to unemployment figures, ranks as the second depressed industrial town in Lancs.—distress is widespread.

To be assured of success we set to work at least eighteen months before the actual date fixed for the bazaar. We asked all Affiliated Organisations and Ward Committees to send representatives to form one big committee, which meets at least once a month. From this committee smaller ones are

chosen to carry on particular work. We find the associate members, coming from the Ward Committees, are the best workers. We place our large room, which has holding capacity for about 350 people, at the disposal of each committee in rotation.

A healthy spirit of rivalry is set up between one ward and another as to which can raise most money in social functions. The amount of enthusiasm engendered and originality shown in work of this kind is really surprising.

The money raised in this manner is spent on material to be made up into garments, or, if a committee wishes to spend its time in running social functions instead of sewing classes, ready-made goods are bought.

That is one side of the work.

Another important part is that of selling tickets beforehand. We have tickets printed to the value of 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1s. After a few months' time we also have vouchers printed to the value of 5s., 10s. and £1. These are distributed through the Ward Committees for sale from door to door and in factories and workshops. This part of the work is a real test of Ward organisation and shows an Agent where his weak spots are, better than an election campaign, because it requires longer and consistent efforts.

When the date of the bazaar is approaching buying, arrangements, and entertainment committees are formed. For the Secretary of the bazaar it is a big task.

If the agent of the Division (where there is one) can see his way clear it is advisable for him to act as general secretary. In speaking to agents we do not need to dwell upon the danger of bickering and trouble arising amongst the members. An agent's temper, tact, business and organising ability will be taxed to the uttermost in his capacity as secretary for a bazaar. His control and influence will be reflected to some extent in the degree of success achieved.

Running a bazaar has an organisation value apart from any monetary results. If you can keep your members busy doing something useful you are well on the way to success in a political sense as well as on the material side.

A CALL TO LOCAL PARTIES

HELP THE LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

By W. ARTHUR PEACOCK, Editor, "*The Clarion*."

In my article in these columns last month I endeavoured to outline to local parties the steps that should be taken to organise Leagues of Youth in their localities. This month I am keen to address a few remarks to parties who have Leagues of Youth in existence already in their locality. I want local officials to realise the place that the League of Youth has in the Party machinery, for it is evident that a good deal of confusion exists at the moment.

The decisions of the Brighton Conference provide for all persons over sixteen years of age being eligible for membership of the Party, and for those between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five being organised into the League of Youth. This means, then, that members of the League who are over sixteen are full members of the Party and are entitled to participate in all business of the party and are eligible for all offices. I am anxious to emphasise this because at the annual conference on January 11th, quite a number of young people told me of the difficulties that they met with when dealing with the local parties. I heard of one case where members of the League were not allowed to attend ward meetings, of another case where the Party refused to carry out the rules regarding allocation of finances, of another where young people were not allowed to stand for the management committee.

It seems obvious, therefore, that local officials have need to give greater consideration to the new rules especially to the sections relating to the League of Youth. I urge them to do this and in cases of dispute to get into touch with Mr. R. T. Windle at Transport House. Secretaries of branches of the League would be well advised to follow this same line of action when difficulties arise.

We do not want our young people to become disheartened because local parties give them the cold shoulder. The League is an integral part of the Party organisation. It is the Party's training ground and educational centre, and it cannot possibly be effective unless its members are given the utmost help and encouragement.

There are some local officials who feel that the young people are too inexperienced to sit on management committees. This is a foolish and short-sighted view. By giving young people a share of the work on management committees, by allowing them to accept the various offices, opportunity will be provided for them to become efficient and capable workers.

I ask local Labour Parties to give the young people every encouragement. It will be worth while.

And now I want to say something about the annual conference of the League of Youth. In the first place I am unhappy that it was impossible to allow representatives of the adult party to sit in the visitors' gallery. Had it been possible the necessity for my previous paragraphs would be obviated.

The conference gave us yet another indication of the capable young men and women who are serving our Party all over the country. Ninety Leagues of Youth were represented at the conference and the hundred and ninety delegates displayed a live interest in the proceedings. Every opportunity was given for the delegates to express their views and in brief speeches, young person after young person, showed that they had not only studied the subject under discussion but that they had mastered the art of saying what they wanted to say, clearly and concisely. It became clear, too, quite early in the conference that the delegates did not intend the Advisory Committee to have things all their own way. A resolution expressing regret that the Committee had not pressed for the right of League delegates on management committees to possess voting powers was carried with acclamation. Mr. J. Edwards of the Advisory Committee defended the work of his colleagues and showed the many new benefits which the new rules conferred on members. But without avail. Many delegates expressed their indignation with the action taken and the resolution received support.

This overwhelming defeat on the first resolution was the only serious blow that the Advisory Committee received, and it is clear that this prob-

Item will have to be considered in the light of the conference's latest decision and expression of opinion on this subject.

Keen discussion ensued on the topic of age limit, the Normanton and Alton's branch considering that it should be raised to thirty instead of being at twenty-five as at present. Delegates who spoke on this problem showed that there was quite a division of opinion on the subject. Mr. Markham explained the Advisory Committee point of view and urged that if the League was to remain a young people's movement, then twenty-five years was the most suitable limit that could be imposed. Conference saw the wisdom of this and the resolution was lost.

Plans for a monthly journal were discussed and referred to the committee for further consideration. In view of the facilities already provided by educational societies in the matter of loaning books it was agreed that no useful purpose could be served in establishing a central library in connection with the League.

Another important decision was that steps should be taken to affiliate with the Young Socialist International, so that contact with the young peoples' movement abroad could be established.

* * *

The interest of the Labour Party Executive in this conference was reflected by the presence of Mr. J. S. Middleton, Miss Susan Lawrence and Mr. F. O. Roberts, each of whom gave short addresses of welcome and assured those present of the pleasure with which leaders of the Party had watched the growth of the League.

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(Concluded from page 13.)

A few weeks ago with £20 we could have set up our friend with a modern typewriter and an equally modern rotary duplicator both secondhand but absolutely sound and serviceable, but we met a Secretary laboriously working a twenty-year old duplicator and we put him on to a good thing. It is, however, quite possible to get for £20 a really good typewriter and duplicator —neither of course of the most modern or expensive variety, but thoroughly serviceable for those who have to cut their cloth according to their measure.

Our friend is ill-advised to talk of buying a duplicator without possessing a typewriter. A really good second-hand typewriter should be obtainable locally for round about £10. With the remainder of the money it may be possible to purchase a really good second-hand rotary duplicator. Why not spend a few shillings in advertising? If a reliable machine and proper demonstrations of it cannot be obtained it will be better to purchase a flat duplicator for several pounds less and put the balance away until it can be added to for another purchase later on. The flat duplicator will always be of service.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Time for Prosecution.

Question. I hope you will not mind informing me in your valuable paper concerning a point which may be of importance to us in —?

What we want to know is whether there is any certain time fixed for a prosecution for election expenses. Have the police to take action during a certain time, or is there any sort of statute of limitations like in the case of a debt? Please do not suppose that this information is wanted to protect one of our own members, but it will be useful for us to know in other ways.

Answer. Just so. Fortunately, for offenders there is a limitation of time for prosecutions respecting election offences. Even more fortunately perhaps for the peace of mind of those who have offended the period is appreciably shorter than that which puts a bar to proceedings for the recovery of a civil debt. In the latter case six years is the normal period, but it would be a considerable hardship on a guilty person if for that length of time the possibility of a prosecution was held over him.

For practically all offences against the law there is a limitation of time during which proceedings may be instituted. Except where particular statutes provide otherwise, the "information" in respect of which prosecution is substituted must be made within six calendar months from the time when the matter of complaint arose (Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1848).

The latter Act will apply to certain election offences which have not been made illegal or corrupt practices, or that are not offences against the Municipal Corporations Act. In the two latter Acts provisions exist covering the point, but this is not the case in regard to offences against the Ballot

Act (to which the Summary Jurisdiction Act will apply).

The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, Section 219 says "in any summary proceedings for offences and fines under this Act the information shall be laid within six months after the commission of the offence."

The period during which a prosecution may take place under the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, or the Municipal Elections Corrupt Practices Act, 1884, is considerably longer. By Section 30 of the last mentioned Act the procedure for a prosecution under the Act is to be the same as in the Act of the previous year and Section 51 (C.I.P.P.A., 1883) is as follows:—

"A proceeding against a person in respect of the offence of a corrupt or any other offence under the Corrupt Practices Prevention Acts or this Act shall be commenced within one year after the offence was committed, or if it was committed in reference to an election with respect to which an inquiry is held by election commissioners shall be commenced within one year after the offence was committed, or within three months after the report of such commissioners is made, whichever period last expires, so that it be commenced within two years after the offence was committed, and the time so limited by this section shall, in the case of any proceeding under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts for any such offence, whether before an election court or otherwise, be substituted for any limitation of time contained in the last-mentioned Acts."

It will thus be seen that the extreme limit for prosecution for corrupt or illegal practices is two years. If, however, there has been no election petition the extreme period is one year.

A Young Person's Difficulty.

Question. Some time ago I was appointed Secretary of _____ Labour Party. Since then I have taken on other offices in the Labour Movement and I have become as keen as mustard to know all about it. I am only twenty-two years of age, and I frequently find I am at a disadvantage with older people in the Party, who seem to know everybody in the country prominent in our Movement quite familiarly. Directly a name is mentioned everybody knows the person referred to except me, and I find this is very trying when the question under discussion is that of speakers. Some of our members must know hundreds of prominent people. Where do they get the information? Is there any directory I could study or can you advise me how to get more and more familiar with what I suppose is the personnel of the Movement?

Answer. The position our correspondent finds himself in is a common one among younger people and to a lesser degree with recruits to the Party.

It is obvious that older people, or persons who have closely followed any Movement for a number of years will be better acquainted with its personnel than newcomers, and by the nature of things those associated with the early and unpopular days of the Party got to know one another. The old comrade has followed the doings of some people for half a life-time; he will have met many of the leaders in our minority days, and these recollections linger. The young recruit cannot all at once acquire the same familiarity with the Bills and the Bens of the Movement. And this is not entirely to his disadvantage. The post-war days of the Party have seen a tremendous change among its prominent personalities and, although it is good to think how many of the older figures still adorn the Movement the Party's phenomenal growth has brought in a strong strain composed of new men and women of mark. The old comrade is sometimes a little biased by his old affections, and the more modern comrade can probably give a better appraisement of the personnel of to-day. Our friend will forgive this homily, but it is very apposite to his question.

There is no compleat directory to the Labour Movement. We are aware that a sort of encyclopedia to the Labour Movement is offered by a subscription

firm of booksellers, but we have managed without this book ourselves and it is not what our friend requires. A helpful volume is the "Labour Who's Who," last published in 1927, though many modest men are absent from this volume.

The last edition of the "Labour Year Book" contains much that is useful in this connection in its last section, but probably a careful study of the last few Annual Reports of the Labour Party would prove most valuable of all. To appraise rightly the leading figures in the Movement our friend must also keep abreast with current publications and the later bibliography of the Movement. He should study speeches in Parliament and reports of meetings in the country. In this way he will acquire in time a far more balanced insight into the personnel of the Movement than that which is merely based on contacts made in pioneer days.

Buying a Typewriter.

Question. I should like your advice on the following matter. Our Party for several years has managed with a little clay duplicator of my own on which I run off notices for meetings and sometimes handbills in my own handwriting. We have not been able to afford a typewriter, but now our Party has got a little money in hand and we think might spend up to say £20. There is a division of opinion as to what it is best to buy with this money. We are being pressed to buy a duplicator, but this costs nearly twice the money we have to spare. A typewriter is also expensive, but what is the use of a typewriter if I still have to scribble away and use my old clay pot? What would you do with £20 to spend and no more? If you will tell us we will follow your advice.

Answer. We are tempted to say like Galileo "it moves," or to use another analogy, the cripple will soon throw away his crutches. Candidly we sympathise with Secretaries whose Parties have not yet done sufficient in making members to afford more than the clay pot to which our correspondent so disgustedly refers; and yet we are tempted to ponder whether some of those laborious hours spent with the inefficient and antique little duplicator would not have been better spent obtaining members and the wherewithal to purchase adequate equipment.

(Concluded on page 11.)

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

We understand that the printed copies of the revised Rules of Local Labour Parties have now been circulated, and are obtainable in quantities from the Labour Party at the usual price. It is probable that the unavoidable delay in printing and circulating the Rules has delayed in some districts the formal adoption of the new Rules and the adaptations that may be necessary to local circumstances. This process, however, is now urgent, because the relationship between the National Party and Local Parties is governed by the new Rules and affiliation is dependent upon their adoption.

The places where serious departure from the Rules is really necessary are few in number and in practically every instance they will be places where the nature of the constituency conforms to a type governed by an alternative set of rules. For instance, there are one or two constituencies classified as Boroughs which nevertheless consist of a grouping of Urban Districts and to which the set B. and C. Rules are more applicable. And there are a few highly centralized County Divisions where set "A" rules are more applicable. In one very unusual case Set B and C rules were found more suited to a certain constituency, included by the R.P. Act, for no apparent reason, in a Divided Borough. These variations are mentioned here to show the exceptional circumstances that alone could justify serious departures from the models laid down and we should think it unlikely that the Labour Party would sanction or encourage any radical alterations beyond cases like the few constituencies mentioned.

It would, therefore, seem necessary for Local Parties to at once adopt the Rules as they stand, and complete those portions of the Rules which are left for local adaptation. The rules as framed and adopted by the Annual Conference do actually leave open just those questions which almost alone in the past have been the reason of any difference in rules between similar constituencies. The matters which must be settled and embodied in the rules by each constituency according to its local circum-

stances are (1) the name of the Party; (2) the basis of representation on the Management Committee. (3) the number of the Executive Committee and the "proportionate basis of the whole membership" on which the Executive is to be elected. (4) The affiliation fee of affiliated organisations; (5) the contributions of individual members and scheme for collection of same; (6) in Divided Boroughs the allocation of income as between the Central Party and the Divisional Party; (7) date of Annual Meeting; (8) certain dates affecting the selection of local candidates.

It will be noted that the above-mentioned matters all require to be embodied in the Rules which finally must be sent to and sanctioned by the National Labour Party. It is obvious that the Rules require careful perusal and that certain of the points mentioned call for a combination of local knowledge and skilled advice. Because of this it is very desirable that the officers of the Labour Party should be called into consultation while the Rules are under discussion, and this course may avoid unnecessary delay and explanations.

There is every evidence that the unusual opportunity of making money afforded to Local Parties by the *Daily Herald* will result in an all-round benefit and impetus to the Movement. Primarily, the effort will retain for us a bigger and a better paper with a larger circulation, and a bigger influence, which is bound to re-act as an asset to the Party at the next test of public opinion. But Local Parties have an unique opportunity of making a solid addition to their income in addition. Even those averse to ordinary canvassing will not find the attractive *Herald* proposition a difficult thing to put before electors. The timid may even learn to overcome their nervousness; certainly it will be a good test for local machinery and a trial manœuvre in preparation for the General Election. These matters are dealt with elsewhere.

A secretary asks us for advice concerning duplicate books for correspondence. His predecessor has used printed and bound books of letter-heads, inter-

leaved with blank sheets for carboned copies, and our correspondent who is unused to office matters asks for some guidance as to a better system. We should like to have seen the books referred to, but generally speaking we have a poor opinion of this method of writing letters, and copying correspondence, even if only a few letters are sent out. The use of duplicate books applies only to handwritten letters and to get the best results the letter heading should be on bank paper and the books should be well supplied with the right kind of pen carbon paper. We have seen books where the top sheet was of ordinary cream laid paper, making it impossible for carboned copies to show through unless pencil was used. A pencilled letter is an offence to the recipient and should not be used. Sometimes the book is used the other way about with the thin sheet on top, the carboned copy being the one torn out and sent to the recipient. One hardly knows which system is the worst. If duplicate books are used at all it is advisable to order them with the interleaving sheets also perforated, as then the carboned copies can be detached and placed with their kindred correspondence and so used as necessity arises or filed away in folders.

Another correspondent asks about the most suitable way of keeping the correspondence of his Party, which is by no means large. Hitherto the correspondence as done with has been put away in box files not necessarily in date or any other order, and there has been no attempt at classification or indexing. This problem is one that must trouble many Secretaries who have neither the room or the equipment, or even the necessity for elaborate filing systems, but it is not easy to suggest any really simple and satisfactory method of filing which will stand the test of time and allow for growth of the organisation at the same time. We suppose the original method of filing was to stick all letters on a bill-hook. The box-file for unindexed and unsorted correspondence is only one remove from this, its only advantage over the former savagery being that it is not so dusty or destructive. However, the simplest system we can advise consists of numbering each letter consecutively and keeping an alphabetic index of correspondents against whose names will be entered

the appropriate number of any letter received. Box-files may be used and if the entry is made as each letter is put away this system will never get out of order and a turnover to a more elaborate filing system is always comparatively easy.

One hears sometimes of "sacrifice for the movement," but rarely, if ever, is sacrifice specified and identified as it ought to be. Who sacrifices? and when? The pioneers certainly sacrificed not only time and money and energy, but also the respect and regard of their fellows. Contumely and persecution were often theirs, and even to-day there are those whose sacrifice consists in bearing their undue share of like evils. Labour men and women to-day mostly make their sacrifice in time and money devoted to the cause and in services unstintingly rendered. The not numerous paid servants of the Movement rarely lag behind in sacrifice, for though a living is theirs, long hours and other hardships often entail a considerable forgoing of life's ordinary pleasures; and the casualties by way of ill-health, and even death, sometimes tell their own story.

Is the spirit of sacrifice diminishing? We think not: but few notice when the many act alike. Perhaps to-day the most phenomenal and significant sacrifice is that which is gradually winning the County Divisions for Labour. How often is it realised that a County Divisional meeting, Executive or general, frequently involves not only loss of time but a journey at the personal expense of each member of anything up to thirty and thirty-five miles, plus meals. Almost every week some illustration of this wide-spread sacrifice in our poorer districts comes to our notice. If no other record marks this wonderful present-day evidence that to-day's generation have not lost the spirit of their fathers, we at least are proud to note it and—it matters much!

WANTED, TRAVELLING SALESMEN. No canvassing, no samples, useful side line for organisers, lecturers calling Labour clubs, I.L.P. branches. — Apply, by letter, stating district covered.—Walker, 23, Charles Street, Newport, Mon.

CHAIRMANSHIP AT ELECTION MEETINGS.

By MR. C. L. GIBBONS, *Edinburgh*

The success of any meeting depends far more than is generally supposed upon the quality of chairmanship displayed. This is particularly true of Election meetings, so a study of chairmanship in relation to such meetings is well worth while.

Speaking generally we can sum up the chairman's duties when we say that he has (1) to keep the meeting in good order and (2) to see that its business is carried through completely and expeditiously. For convenience in the study of his SPECIAL DUTIES we can divide them into three groups : (1) Opening duties; (2) Interval duties and (3) Closing duties.

The Opening duties of the chairman are to start the meeting off in a businesslike and stimulating manner. These opening remarks can be classified as follows :—

1. Auspices.
2. Objects.
3. Routine.
4. Name.
5. Subject.
6. Qualifications.
7. Call on Speakers.

Under "auspices" the chairman should state the name of the organisation responsible for the meeting. This may be either the Local Labour Party or the Election Committee. The "objects" will be one or more of the following :—(1) To explain the policy of the Labour Party. (2) To make known the qualifications of the Labour Candidate, or (3) To enable the electors to hear him. In dealing with the "routine" of the meeting the Chairman should state (1) the order of the speakers if there is more than one, (2) whether questions are to be allowed and (or) discussion. In making the announcement that questions or discussion will be allowed the chairman should emphasise the value and importance of these and stress the fact that the Party welcomes enquiry and criticism.

The candidate may not of course be in the meeting when the "routine" is announced, but it should be stated that he is coming every time a new speaker is called upon, and when the candidate does arrive he should be called upon as soon as possible. On the candidate's arrival it is advisable for the chairman

to intimate that fact to the audience and give the speaker who then has the floor a hint to finish quickly.

After dealing with "routine" give the "names" of the speakers, but make certain of the correct details concerning them. Follow this by the statement of their "subjects."

Next should come the "qualifications" of the speaker and to get the best results certain rules should be adhered to. The first is to announce the qualification of each speaker *immediately before* he is called upon to speak, so that he will rise just when the audience are most impressed by what you have said. The second rule is that the qualifications of the candidate himself should be stated with great emphasis and in detail. One must bear in mind that it is not considered proper for the candidate to blow his own trumpet, and yet it is essential that someone should blow it. This task is essentially that of the chairman who should make himself familiar with the candidate's favourable personal qualifications and record and state them forcibly and fully. Don't do what many chairmen do by simply saying "You all know Mr. So-and-So so well that it is not necessary for me to say anything as to his qualifications"; for even if they do know it is advisable to remind them.

If the candidate is not going to speak at your meeting you should still not omit to mention his qualifications. In such case it is best to state them under Objects. The opening remarks are brought to a close by calling upon the speaker, but when doing this do it cordially, not coldly. Don't say "I will now ask Mr. So-and-So to address you." Say "I have now great pleasure in asking Mr. So-and-So to address you."

There are now certain general hints with regard to "opening remarks" which it is advisable to mention. The first is that if one knows or anticipates that the speakers are going to speak definitely on certain aspects of the Labour Party policy or record the chairman should avoid trenching upon them. The Golden Rule in this connection is "**DON'T ENCROACH UPON THE SPEAKER'S TOPIC.**"

(To be continued.)

NOTICE.—Owing to the inclusion of our index this month several features are unavoidably held over.—EDITOR, "L.O."